Dr Marshall W. Nirenberg Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics National Hearth, Lung and Blood Institute Building 36 Bethesda MD 20892 USA



19 April 1996

PO Box 504. Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 2LU Telephone: 01582 873108 Fax: 01582 873705

Dear Dr Nirenberg

I am the founder and director of Seriously Ill for Medical Research (SIMR), a patients group supporting the humane and necessary use of animals in medical research. SIMR was formed in 1991 by patients who were outraged by animal rights actions that threatened medical research.

SIMR's main objective is to promote a greater public understanding of the methods, aims and benefits of medical research and the role of animal research.

I am writing to all Nobel Laureates in Physiology or Medicine as your views on medical research are highly respected. I wanted to address the common question, "Do we really need animal experiments in medical research?"

Your answers will be compiled and then presented to the media in a special report. Your name will only be used if you have added any comment at the end of the questionnaire.

I would like a reply by no later than 31 May, if possible.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

13 Can

Andrew Blake

Director

Medical Panel: Sir Raymond Hoffenberg MD PhD FRCP Prof Brian L Pentecost MD FRCP Prof Robert D H Boyd MB BChir FRCP MSc Dr Donald P Woods MA BM BCh FRCGP

Patrons: Don Henderson

Jane Asher

Chairwoman: Vicky Cowell - Mother of cystic fibrosis child

Sir Sydney Samuelson CBE Esther Rantzen OBE

Dr Jonathan Miller

Secretary: Louise Perry - Heart defect Treasurer: Joan Blain - Multiple sclerosis

Prof Stephen Hawking CH CBE FRS

Director: Andrew Blake - Friedreich's ataxia

On the Front Line of Medical Research

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